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# THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

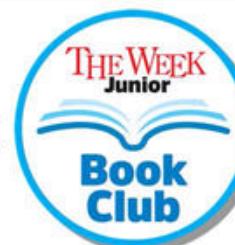
NATIONAL NEWS

NASA names  
new chief  
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Making sense of the world



# THE WEEK

## GOLDEN BOY

Scientists "unwrap" 2,300-year-old  
teenage mummy in Egypt p14



THE BEST  
MAGAZINE FOR  
CURIOS  
KIDS



# This week's big news

## DID YOU KNOW?

Alaska has the largest land area of any US state, and its nickname is "The Last Frontier."



Hobart Bay in Tongass National Forest

## Alaska fact file



- **POPULATION:** 733,583
- **HISTORY:** Became the 49th state in 1959
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Alaska has 33,904 miles of shoreline, 17 of the 20 tallest mountains in the US, more than 70 active volcanoes, and the Yukon River, which is the third-longest river in the country.
- **ECONOMY:** Oil production, fishing, and tourism

# Logging banned in Alaska national forest

**O**n January 25, the White House announced a new ban on logging and road building in the Tongass National Forest, which covers most of southeast Alaska. The ban reverses a decision made in 2020 to open more than 9 million acres of mostly untouched wilderness to the timber and mining industries.

## What happened?

Tom Vilsack, the US secretary of agriculture, said that logging (cutting down trees for lumber, paper, or other products) and the construction of new roads would no longer be permitted in the national forest. It was the latest move in a 20-year battle over how Tongass should be managed. Federal officials first blocked logging and road building in 2001, but former President Donald Trump overturned that decision in 2020. Current President Joe Biden made the latest change.

## What is Tongass?

Tongass has been called "America's Amazon." It is the biggest national forest in the US and the world's largest temperate rain forest (a woodland with a mild climate, heavy rainfall, and abundant species of animals and plants). Bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Coast Mountains and

Canadian border on the east, it spans more than 16 million acres (slightly larger than the state of West Virginia). The trees, rivers, mountains, and untouched wilderness in Tongass provide habitat to salmon, bald eagles, Sitka black-tailed deer, and black bears, among other species. The forest's ancient hemlock, cedar, and Sitka spruce trees are up to 1,000 years old and 17 stories tall. Tongass is home to about 70,000 people and 32 communities, including Juneau, the state capital.

## Why is the ban significant?

Conservationists said it's important to protect the forest's biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area). The ban on logging also helps fight climate change (the long-term changes in weather patterns, including temperature, largely due to human activities). Trees help prevent climate change by storing carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change).

The trees in Tongass are particularly important because they hold more than 10% of the  $\text{CO}_2$  captured in all US national forests. Native American leaders fought hard for the ban because people of their nations have lived in, protected, and sustained the forest for thousands of years.



Tom Vilsack

Tongass is a vital part of their livelihood, culture, and history. The ban also preserves the fishing and tourism industries, which are larger than the state's timber business.

## How did people react?

Native American leaders said the decision is vital to "address the climate crisis and finally listen to the Southeast Tribes that will continue to be most impacted by climate change." Kate Glover, of the environmental group Earthjustice, said, "This is great news for the forest, the salmon, the wildlife, and the people who depend on intact ecosystems to support their ways of life and livelihoods." Logging industry officials, however, said the ban would make it hard to stay in business. "Our local economies cannot survive," said Tessa Axelson, head of an association that represents timber companies. Mike Dunleavy, governor of Alaska, criticized the ban. "Alaskans deserve access to the resources that the Tongass provides—jobs, renewable energy resources, and tourism," he said.

## What will happen next?

The new rules have gone into effect, putting a stop to any logging or road-building projects. Along with the restrictions, the US government will spend \$25 million on local sustainable development, which will go toward projects aimed at improving the health of the forest.

# This week's big news



## US shoots down “spy balloon”

From January 28 to February 4, a balloon the size of three school buses drifted 60,000 feet high in the skies above the US and Canada. The balloon came from China and crossed over Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories before traveling southeast from Idaho to South Carolina.

US officials said the balloon lingered over military sites and was carrying sensors and surveillance equipment to spy on the US. Chinese officials, however, said the aircraft was used to track weather and had blown off course. On February 4, a US military aircraft shot down the balloon over the Atlantic Ocean. The US will collect and study the wreckage of the balloon.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was set to visit China on February 5 and 6. The trip was meant to improve relations between the nations, but Blinken canceled it after the balloon was discovered. Chinese officials said the US overreacted in shooting down the balloon. “We hope that both sides can handle this together calmly and carefully,” a Chinese spokesperson said.



The balloon coming down



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### SETTING A SUPERSIZE RECORD

After 177 years of being misidentified, a giant water lily was confirmed as a new species—and the largest of its kind. Experts at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK named it *Victoria boliviiana*. The plant grows to nearly 10 feet wide.



*Victoria boliviiana*



Pope Francis at a mass in Africa

### EARLY LIFE

Pope Francis was born in Argentina and was once a high school literature and psychology teacher.

## Pope focuses on peace in Africa visit

Pope Francis, the leader of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church, visited Africa for the first time since 2019. Francis spent six days traveling to two nations: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan.

Francis arrived in the DRC on January 31, becoming the first pope to visit the country since 1985. More than half of the 95 million people in the DRC are Catholic, which makes it the nation with the largest Catholic population in Africa. About a million people attended a public mass (religious service) held by the pope.

During the mass, Francis said he was visiting the DRC “as a pilgrim of reconciliation and peace.” There has been ongoing, violent conflict in the country since 1996, as different groups struggle for power. Francis met with the president and called

for free and fair elections. He also called on nations around the world to stop taking advantage of the DRC’s natural resources, such as gold and cobalt (a material used in electronics). Demand for such products is a cause of conflict and contributes to the use of forced labor (when people are forced to work for someone else’s gain).

On February 3, Francis became the first pope to visit South Sudan, which was established as a country in 2011. He spoke to the nation’s leaders and implored them to end a civil war that broke out in 2013. A peace deal was signed in 2018, but conflicts have continued in different parts of the country. At a mass held before his return to Rome, Francis told the people of South Sudan, “Never lose hope! And lose no opportunity to build peace.”

### A BABY-NAME REVEAL

Meet Petunia! Nearly 19,000 people voted in an online poll to name the baby pygmy hippo born at the Metro-Richmond Zoo in Virginia. The other name options were Dumplin’, Penelope, Olive, Holly, and Gayla. With her flower name, Petunia takes after her mom, Iris. “Petunia is confident, brave, and spunky,” the zoo said.



The pendant

### A SURPRISING DISCOVERY

The British Museum has unveiled a very rare find: a gold necklace that dates back to 1530 or earlier and bears the symbols of King Henry VIII and his first wife, Katherine of Aragon. The café owner who found the jewelry with a metal detector in a field said it was a “once in 30 lifetimes” experience.



Baby Petunia



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971, and its priorities have been supported by Democrats and Republicans.

# National news



Members of the Congressional Black Caucus meeting in the White House

## Vice President speaks



Kamala Harris, the US Vice President, spoke at the funeral of Tyre Nichols on February 1 in Memphis. During her remarks, she told Nichols' mother and stepfather that "the people of our country mourn with you" and said she hopes his death will "shine a light on the path toward peace and justice."

# Lawmakers call for police reform

Members of Congress are calling for police reform following the death of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, after he was beaten by police officers in Memphis, Tennessee. Police reform aims to maintain safety while reducing violence.

### What did the lawmakers do?

On February 2, the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Joe Biden at the White House to encourage him to pursue police reform. The group is currently made up of 57 Black members of Congress (branch of government that passes laws) who seek to be "the voice for people of color." The caucus wants to pass a bill that would overhaul police activities. Some of the recommended steps include creating a federal list that tracks police misconduct, mandating that federal officers wear

body cameras while working, and providing officers with mental health training.

### Why did the lawmakers speak out?

While Nichols was driving on January 7, he was stopped by five police officers for what they said was reckless driving. Video footage later released showed that the officers, all of whom were Black, severely beat Nichols, who died of his injuries in the hospital three days later. The officers were fired from their jobs and have been charged with second-degree murder and other crimes.

### What are other officials saying?

Other leaders are calling for solutions to prevent this type of violence. Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest

police union, said he had been in touch with the White House about helping to bring about change. We "welcome any constructive effort to help us do our jobs better," he said. Biden said he was in favor of reform. In Congress, many Democrats favored legislation, but many Republicans, such as Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio, expressed doubt that legislation would make a difference.

### What will happen next?

Kevin McCarthy, a Republican of California and the Speaker of the House of Representatives (top leader of one half of Congress), indicated that he would be open to discussing ways to enact police reform. Congressional Black Caucus member Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat of Texas, said she would introduce a bill to the House.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### STRIKE

The use of the word "strike" to describe "stopping work in protest" dates to the 18th century. It is thought to have begun among sailors who were unhappy with their working conditions. The sailors would "strike," or lower their ships' sails and not go to sea. They only agreed to raise the sails once their demands were met.

**STRIKE!**

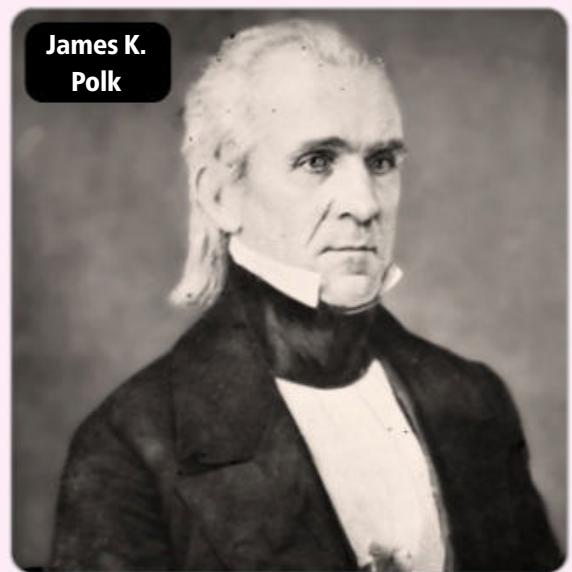
## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### February 14, 1849

First photo taken of a US President

On February 14, 1849, James K. Polk, the 11th US President, became the first to have his photograph taken while in office. During the last weeks of his Presidency, he traveled to New York City and was photographed in the studio of Mathew Brady. Brady would go on to take photos of other Presidents, including Abraham Lincoln. One of Brady's photos of Lincoln appears on today's \$5 bill.

James K. Polk



# National news



**Joe Acaba**

## NASA names chief astronaut

Joe Acaba has been named chief of the Astronaut Office by NASA, the US space agency. A former teacher and veteran of multiple spaceflights who has worked on the International Space Station, Acaba is the first person of Hispanic heritage to hold the position. His responsibilities will include managing astronaut resources, making crew assignments, and playing an "integral role" in preparing astronauts "for the challenges ahead," NASA said.



**Most kids fully heal.**

## New guidelines for concussions

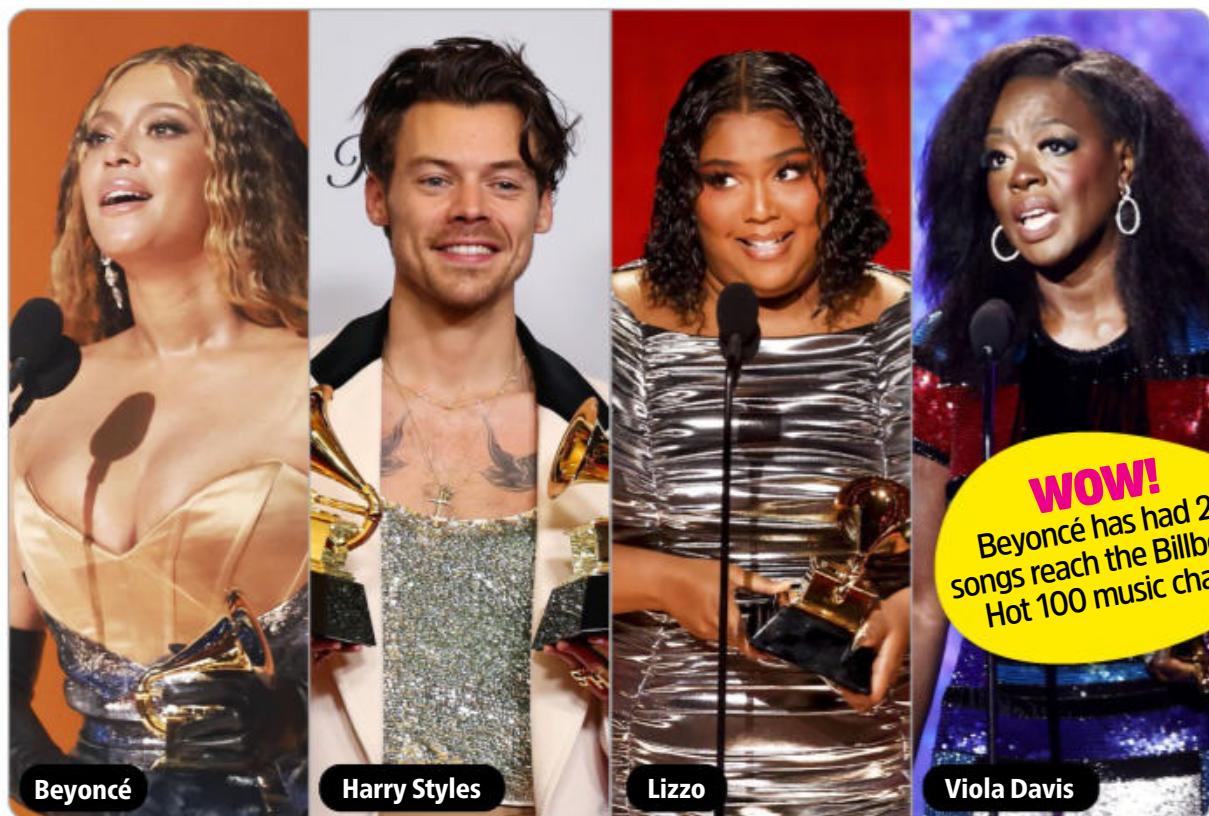
Rest may not be as important for kids with a concussion as previously believed. A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head, which can happen while playing sports. The study, published in *JAMA Network Open*, found that when kids ages 8 to 18 returned to their regular schedule within two days or less after injury, they had fewer symptoms, such as dizziness, two weeks later.



**Punxsutawney Phil**

## Groundhog predicts more winter

A groundhog known as Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2, Groundhog Day. According to legend, winter weather continues for six weeks if he sees his shadow, and spring weather arrives early if he doesn't. The event, held in Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania, began in 1887. Phil's predictions have been accurate about 40% of the time in the past 10 years, one group said.



**WOW!**

Beyoncé has had 21 songs reach the Billboard Hot 100 music chart.

## Grammy Awards are presented

On February 5, the music industry awarded its most prestigious prizes at the 65th annual Grammy Awards. The televised event was held at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California, and was hosted by comedian Trevor Noah.

The Grammys are given out by the Recording Academy to honor music across all genres, including pop, rock, rap, country, and jazz. The four major award categories, known as "the big four," are Best New Artist, Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Album of the Year.

Singer-songwriter Beyoncé made history by breaking the record for most Grammy wins by an artist. Her album *Renaissance* was named Best Dance/Electronic Album, and she won three more Grammys at the ceremony, bringing her total to 32. In her acceptance speech, she thanked the LGBTQ+ community for inspiring *Renaissance*.

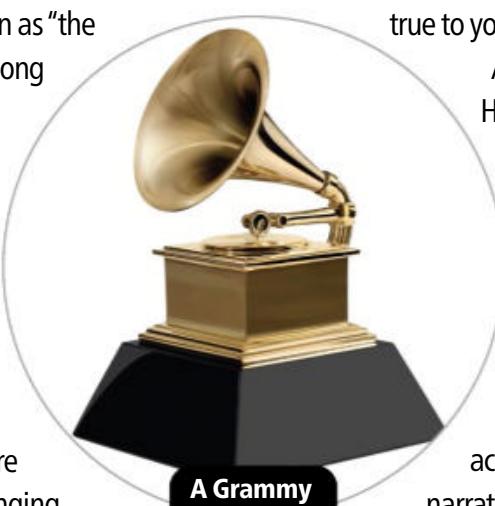
The Best New Artist winner was 23-year-old jazz singer Samara Joy. She released her first

album, *Linger Awhile*, in 2022. Singer and guitarist Bonnie Raitt was awarded Song of the Year for "Just Like That." Raitt won her first Grammy in 1990, and this was her 13th.

Pop artist Lizzo won Record of the Year for "About Damn Time," a song on her album *Special*. While accepting the award, she said she has devoted her life to making positive music. "Stay true to yourself," she told the audience.

Album of the Year went to Harry Styles for *Harry's House*. Styles acknowledged the talent of the other nominees in his acceptance speech. "There is no such thing as best in music," he said.

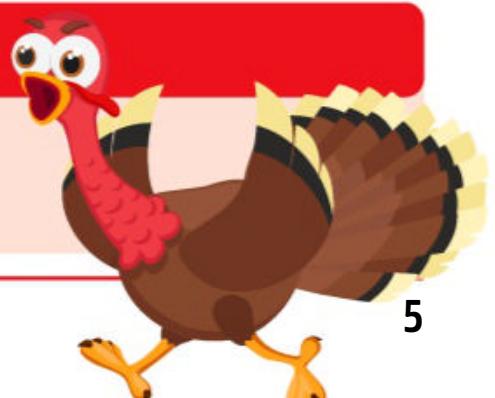
Other notable wins included actress Viola Davis accepting the Grammy for narrating the audiobook of her memoir *Finding Me*. The win propelled Davis to EGOT status. EGOT is the term used when a performer wins all four major American entertainment awards: an Emmy (TV), a Grammy (music), an Oscar (film), and a Tony (theater).



**A Grammy trophy**

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**"Aggressive turkey causes chaos in Minnesota neighborhood" UPI**





# Around the world



## United Kingdom Healthcare workers go on strike

On February 6, tens of thousands of nurses and ambulance workers across the UK went on strike (stopped working as a form of protest) to demand better pay. It was the largest coordinated effort between healthcare workers in the 75-year history of the state-run National Health Service. The UK is struggling with inflation (price increases), which the government said is the highest it's been in 40 years.



## Château d'Oex, Switzerland International balloon festival lifts off

Thousands of people traveled to Château d'Oex, a town in a snowy valley of the Swiss Alps, for the 43rd International Hot Air Balloon Festival. The festival featured 60 balloons from 15 countries, as well as displays from planes, skydivers, and paragliders. Thomas Spildooren, a hot-air balloon pilot, told Reuters news agency, "Every trouble in daily life just seems so small when you go up in the air."



## Laguna, Brazil Dolphins and humans fish together

Scientists have found that people in Laguna catch fish 17 times more successfully when they pay attention to the behavior of bottlenose dolphins. Dolphins herd fish to shore, where local fishers wait. When the fish are close, dolphins give a signal, like a tail slap, and the fishers drop their nets. This breaks up schools of fish, making them easier for both dolphins and people to catch.



## Germany, France Free rides for youth

This summer, 60,000 free train tickets will be given to people ages 27 and under in Germany and France. This is to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, an agreement of friendship between the two nations. In both countries, 30,000 tickets will be made available for travel between, and throughout, Germany and France.



## Venice, Italy Carnival returns

Tourists crowded onto bridges and lined streets on February 4 to watch a floating parade that marked the start of the Venice Carnival. Decorated boats traveled down the Grand Canal, and people wore traditional Venetian costumes and masks. Music played all around the city, and fireworks were set off. The Venice Carnival dates back to the 11th century, and this was the first year the event returned in full since before the pandemic.



# Around the world



## Copenhagen, Denmark Plans to end annual holiday

On February 5, about 50,000 people protested in Copenhagen against the government's plans to eliminate a public holiday, which is usually a day off from school and work. The government wants to cut Great Prayer Day, a Christian holiday that dates back to 1686. Despite the protests, the government said it will proceed with its plan.



## Turkey, Syria Devastating earthquake strikes

Massive rescue efforts are underway after a powerful earthquake with a 7.8 magnitude hit parts of Turkey and Syria on February 6. When The Week Junior went to press the next day, more than 7,800 deaths had been reported. Turkey is located in one of the world's most active earthquake zones, and the earthquake was one of the worst to strike the country since 1999. More than 20 countries, including the US, are sending aid to the region.



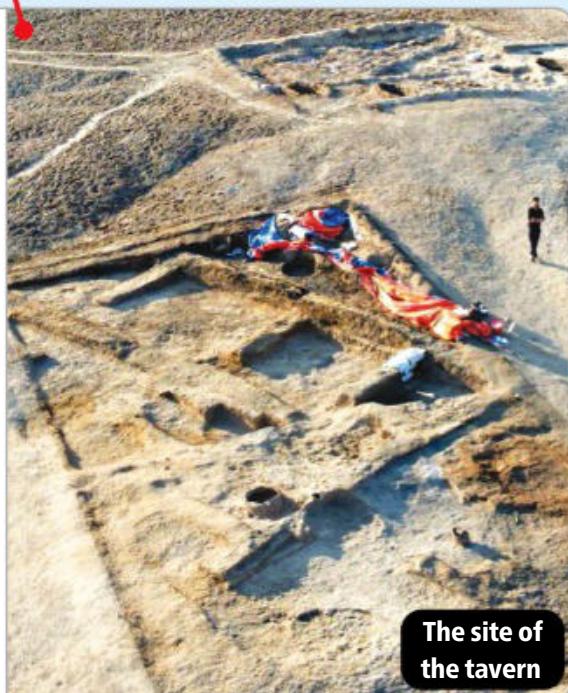
## Myanmar Silent protests against military rule

Silent protests took place in Myanmar, with stores closed and streets emptied to mark the second anniversary of the military seizing power by force. The military has said that an election to choose a government will take place in August, but many people fear that it will not be fair. The UK, the US, and Canada have announced new sanctions (punishments) against Myanmar's military.



## Australia New money won't show UK monarch

The Australian \$5 bill will no longer feature the face of the UK monarch, who is also the head of state in 14 commonwealth countries, including Australia. The current design features Queen Elizabeth II, who died in 2022. Instead of her successor, her son King Charles III, the new design will celebrate Indigenous Australians (people who were the first to inhabit a place).



## Al-Hiba, Iraq Remains of ancient tavern discovered

Researchers in the ancient city of Lagash, now known as Al-Hiba, have found the remains of a tavern dating back to 2700 BCE. The tavern, where people would have gone to eat, featured bench seats and tables, an oven, and a zeer (clay pot used to keep food cool). The team also found traces of ancient food. Lagash was once one of the largest cities in ancient Mesopotamia, where some of the world's first cities were built.



# The big debate

## Should stores be allowed to refuse cash?

Some businesses have decided not to accept paper money or coins.

### What you need to know

- US law states that cash is “legal tender,” meaning it’s a valid payment method for any debt owed. However, there is no federal rule saying that businesses must accept cash.
- As more businesses are becoming cashless, some states and cities have passed laws giving people the right to pay with cash.
- In 2022, 41% of Americans said they usually do not use cash for purchases, 44% use it sometimes, and 14% use it for all or nearly all purchases.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, signs appeared at many shops declaring that they had gone “cashless”—refusing coins and bills and only accepting contactless payments from a debit or credit card or a payment app on phones. Some stores had already begun moving away from cash years earlier, and many still continue to do business this way. In fact, in a 2021 survey, 22% of small-business owners said they think US society will be fully cashless within 10 years. But some people have argued that it is unfair to turn away customers who want to pay with cash. What do you think? Should stores be allowed to refuse cash?

#### YES Three reasons why stores should be allowed to refuse cash

- 1 Businesses have the right to choose to go cashless, and most people use cards or payment apps anyway.
- 2 Cashless payments speed up purchase transactions, which is good for people and businesses.
- 3 Cash can be lost or stolen, and it’s dirty and spreads germs.



#### What do you think?

Now that you’ve read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think stores should be allowed to refuse cash or NO if you don’t. We’ll publish the results next week.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

About 58% of US adults say they try to always carry cash, just in case they need it.

#### Yes—the time for cash has passed

Store owners should be able to choose how to run their businesses. Most people use debit or credit cards anyway, because they’re more convenient. Counting out the correct amount of bills and coins is a hassle. That’s why cash transactions take up to three times longer than the average contactless payment. Without cash, lines get shorter and shops make more sales. It’s also safer. Cash can be lost or stolen, and employees can be at risk when they have to guard the money. And remember why so many places went cashless during the pandemic: Cash spreads germs as it passes from hand to hand. Refusing cash protects us all.

#### No—it’s not right to refuse it

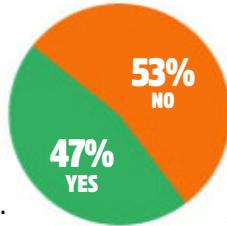
An estimated 5.9 million Americans do not have bank accounts. Many are low-income families, people with disabilities, elderly people, and children. These consumers have no way to pay at cashless stores, so they’re unfairly excluded. Meanwhile, because credit card companies and banks charge fees for every transaction, shop owners lose money or have to raise prices, which can affect customers. Going cashless relies on technology. If a card reader stops working or a connection goes down, nobody can buy anything. It’s important to have options, and cash is the legal tender of our country. No one should be able to refuse it.

#### NO Three reasons why stores should not be allowed to refuse cash

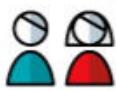
- 1 Refusing cash discriminates against people who don’t have a bank account and who may already be struggling.
- 2 Merchants end up paying more fees to credit card companies and banks, which can cause prices to go up.
- 3 It’s risky to rely on technology for every payment. If there’s a glitch, no one can pay.

#### LAST WEEK’S POLL

Last week, we asked if screen time should be restricted. In a close vote, 53% of you said no to limits, while 47% said yes to a digital detox.



**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



## Inspiring healthy habits

Chef Devin Alexander writes about the power of vegetables in her new book.

Devin Alexander has made a career out of helping people eat healthy and feel good in their bodies, as both a chef and an author. With her new picture book, *The Land of Secret Superpowers: Vegetables*, she aims to show the strengths of nutritious vegetables.

Alexander grew up in California and intended to study theater in college. But after doing some volunteer catering work, she decided to become a private chef. She attended culinary school and started a catering company. She has appeared as a chef on TV many times, including on the *Today* show and *Good Morning America*.

"I had two Italian grandmothers who taught me how to cook," Alexander told *The Week Junior*. As a teen, she struggled

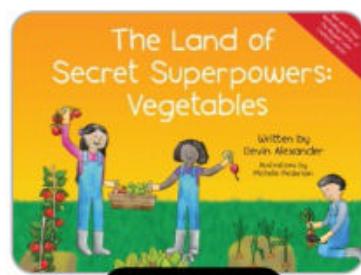
with unhealthy eating habits and feeling confident in her body. Over time, through her love of cooking, she found nutritious ways to enjoy her favorite recipes that would also boost her well-being.

"I grew up believing that I didn't like vegetables," said Alexander. She later

grew to see how tasty they can be. And when she became a mother, she shared that enjoyment with her daughter. Her new book uses rhyming words and colorful illustrations to explain

where vegetables come from, how they grow, and their health benefits for both body and mind.

Alexander hopes her book will show young people that vegetables can be exciting. "I think a lot of times we just need to reframe our vision," she said.



Alexander's new book



**POPULAR PRODUCE**  
The vegetables most commonly eaten in the US are potatoes and tomatoes.

Devin Alexander

## A surfing champion

Luke Shepardson, a 27-year-old surfer, won the Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational (known as "The Eddie") on January 23 in Oahu, Hawaii. It is one of the world's most prestigious surfing competitions. Shepardson surfed waves as high as 50 feet and defeated some of the biggest names in the sport, including defending titleholder John John Florence. The Eddie was named after surfer Eddie Aikau. Like Aikau, Shepardson is a lifeguard from the North Shore of Oahu. It was his first time in this contest, and he competed between work breaks.



Luke Shepardson



Madison Checketts

## Inventing for a cause

Madison Checketts, a 12-year-old from Utah, was visiting California's beaches when she saw plastic bottles littered everywhere. It inspired her to invent a water bottle that's edible and can decompose naturally. "Eco-Hero," as she named it, helped her get her into the top 30 finalists at the 2022 Broadcom Masters Competition, a national science and engineering contest for middle school students. Checketts told *Smithsonian Magazine* she hopes Eco-Hero encourages sustainable solutions and shows how people "can still make a difference in the world, even if it's just in a small way."

## OVERHEARD

“ ”



**“A good teacher will always change your life.”**

Mexican actor Eugenio Derbez on his role as a teacher in the upcoming film *Radical*. Derbez, age 61, is best known for playing a teacher in the film *CODA*, which centered on a deaf family and won the 2022 Academy Award for Best Picture.



# Animals and the environment

## DID YOU KNOW?

Female South American river turtles are larger than males and can weigh up to 200 pounds.



A South American river turtle

## Baby talk in animals

Several species use baby talk, or "motherese," with their young. Female rhesus macaques speak to babies with a soft, high-pitched singing sound. Mother bats have a special type of call that helps teach bat language to their babies. Lowland gorillas use touches and gestures to communicate with their young.



A western lowland gorilla

# Turtles “talk” before they hatch

Although turtles existed even before dinosaurs, scientists didn't know until recently that the animals use sound to communicate. Now researchers have found that turtles make a variety of noises—even before they hatch from their eggs.

Camila Ferrara, a biologist from Brazil, was studying sounds made by South American river turtles, which are also known as arrau turtles. These giant turtles live in the Amazon. Thousands of females lay their eggs on beaches along the nearby Guaporé River. Other types of turtles bury their eggs in the sand and then leave, but South American river



Sounds may help hatchlings stay safe.

turtles wait on the beach for up to two months until their eggs hatch.

Ferrara wondered if the mother turtles “talk” to their babies. She used microphones to record their sounds. When she left a microphone next to a nest of eggs, she heard popping noises coming from inside the shells. “The hatchlings seemed to be saying to one another, ‘Come on, come on, it’s time to wake up,’ ” she told *The Washington Post*.

Ferrara concluded that the baby turtles were making plans to hatch and leave the nest together in order to protect themselves from

predators. The mother turtles approached the eggs and made sounds in response. After the babies hatched, they traveled down the river with the adult females.

In the past, scientists thought turtles were silent because their sounds are at a low pitch that is difficult for humans to hear. Researchers are studying more than 50 types of turtles to learn what their sounds mean and find more proof that they are “talking.”

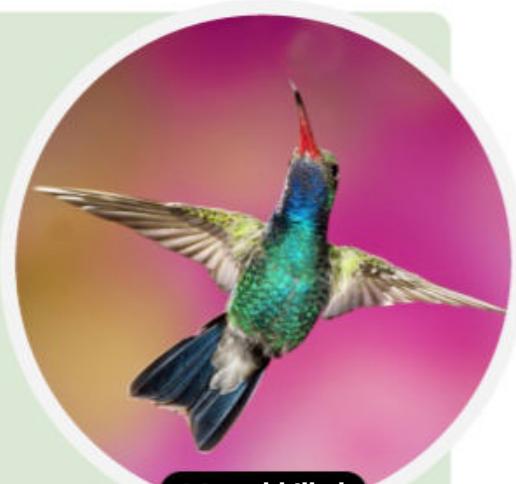
Knowing more about how turtles care for their young may encourage people to protect them. Many species are at risk of dying out because of climate change, dams that obstruct rivers, and hunters, who kill millions of turtles for their meat. Changing the minds of even “two or three people” would help, Ferrara said.



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Kartchner Caverns State Park, Arizona

This park in southern Arizona has passageways that run for 2.4 miles underground. It is famous for mineral structures, including one of the world's largest soda straw stalactites (hanging rock formations) and the biggest formation of brushite moonmilk, which forms when bat poop mixes with limestone. (About 1,500 bats live in the cave for part of the year.) There are also several hiking trails above ground, allowing visitors to explore the Whetstone Mountains and spot animals including javelinas, Gila monsters, Broad-billed hummingbirds, and mountain lions.



A Broad-billed hummingbird

# Animals and the environment



## FIERCE REPUTATION

"Jaguar" comes from the old South American word *yaguar*, meaning "he who kills with one leap."



Some jaguars like to have a buddy.

## Male jaguars become friends

Scientists have observed adult male jaguars, who usually like to be alone, forming friendships that can last for years.

Male jaguars don't usually interact with other jaguars unless they are mating or fighting over territory. But a recent study found evidence of the big cats patrolling territories, resting, and eating together.

Researchers gathered information about jaguars across South America using tracking devices and camera traps (a camera that takes a picture when a sensor detects movement). They found two jaguar

friendships. One pair in Brazil stayed together from 2006 to 2014. Another pair in Venezuela spent time together from 2013 to 2018. No one knows if they are still together. Other pairs were spotted too, but each was seen only once.

The scientists think these friendships could be a response to jaguar habitats being destroyed by humans, which forces more of the animals into smaller areas. The theory is that some male jaguars prefer to share territory and potential mates, rather than risk losing it all to another male.

## Animal of the Week

### Jackie the bald eagle



A famous bald eagle named Jackie laid her first two eggs of the season at her nest in California's San Bernardino National Forest. Jackie has been the star of a live camera feed since 2017 and is caring for the eggs with her partner, Shadow.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 to 30 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** North America, mostly in forests
- **SIZE:** Their wingspan reaches up to 80 inches long
- **DIET:** Fish, other birds, reptiles, and mammals
- **FUN FACT:** Bald eagles are known to steal fish from other animals rather than catching their own.



## Good week / Bad week



### Squirt the skunk

A skunk named Squirt has found a home at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Farm in the Florida Keys. Squirt was surrendered by an owner who could no longer care for him properly. He joined more than 150 animals at the farm.



### Glaciers

More than 80% of the world's glaciers could disappear by the year 2100 due to the warming climate, according to a new study. Even if the increase in the planet's temperature is kept to a minimum, nearly half of the glaciers may disappear.



### Casper Peters

Biologist Aide, Birds & Mammals, Adventure Aquarium

They are related to dolphins, but not as closely as you might think! Vaquitas are a kind of porpoise, a marine mammal that looks similar to dolphins. Porpoises have flat, spade-shaped teeth while dolphins have pointy, cone-shaped teeth. Vaquitas are more closely related to narwhals.



A vaquita

## "Are vaquitas related to dolphins?"

Aanya, 9, Massachusetts

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Adventure Aquarium at [adventureaquarium.com](http://adventureaquarium.com).



## All about Yo-Yo Ma

# Connecting the world

**The cellist Yo-Yo Ma is one of the most celebrated musicians today.**

Yo-Yo Ma is considered by many to be the best cello player in the world and possibly the best cellist ever. He has said that music is the "glue that joins people together."

### His early life

Yo-Yo Ma was born in Paris, France, in 1955 to Chinese parents. His mother was a singer and his father played violin. Ma, now 67, began playing the cello when he was 4 years old and gave his first public recital at age



Yo-Yo Ma at age 6, with his sister Yeou-Cheng Ma

5. During his childhood, he moved to New York City with his family. He was exceptionally talented, and in 1962, when he was 7, he performed live for US President John F. Kennedy. At age 9, he made his concert debut at Carnegie Hall, the famous concert venue in New York City. He later studied at the Juilliard School, a prestigious performing arts school, then went on to get a degree from Harvard University in anthropology (the study of human societies and culture) in 1976.

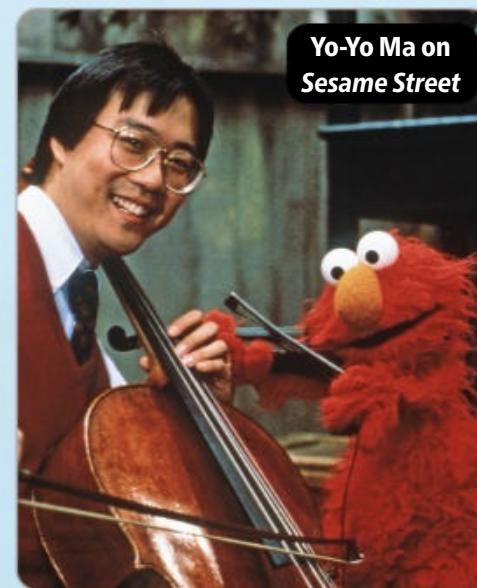


At Acadia National Park in Maine

### Notable performances

Since his first recital, Yo-Yo Ma has never stopped performing. He played at Barack Obama's first inauguration and performed virtually at President Joe Biden's inauguration. In 2018, he launched the Bach project, a plan to perform Johann Sebastian Bach's six suites for solo cello across 36 locations on six continents. After getting his second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, Ma brought his cello along and played for others waiting to be vaccinated. Recently, he launched a project called "Our Common Nature," in which he plays live in US national parks.

GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY OF SESAME WORKSHOP; JAY ELHARD/NPS; SONY CLASSICAL; BEIN & FUSHI VIA FACEBOOK



### Yo-Yo Ma on television

Yo-Yo Ma has appeared on TV shows for children many times, in both live action and animated form. He has made multiple appearances on *Sesame Street*, playing in a quartet with the honkers and teaching Elmo the difference between a fiddle and a cello. An animated version of Ma, sporting rabbit ears, appeared on *Arthur*. Ma also had a guest appearance on an episode of *The Simpsons*, in which he played the cello at a birthday party for the show's antagonist Mr. Burns. He also recorded a cover of the show's theme song that played over the episode's closing credits.



#### FUN FACT

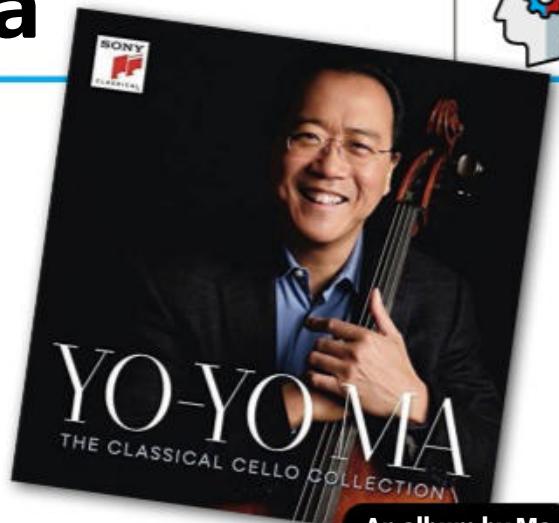
Two of the cellos Yo-Yo Ma plays were made in the 1700s. One is nicknamed "Petunia."

"I think one of the great things about being a musician is you never stop learning," Ma has said.

# All about Yo-Yo Ma



# through music



An album by Ma

## Recording career

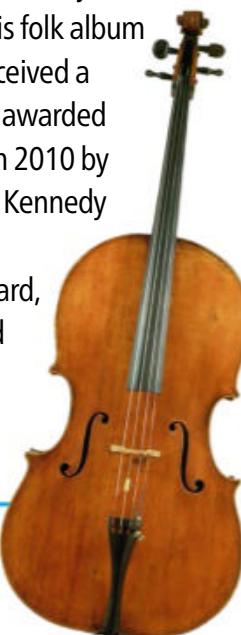
In addition to his performing career, Yo-Yo Ma has recorded more than 100 albums. His recordings cover some of the most celebrated composers in classical music, including Beethoven and Mozart. He has branched out into other genres as well, such as bluegrass and tango music. Some of Ma's albums have been recorded with the Silk Road Ensemble, a group he established that brings musicians from all over the world together. He has also contributed to movie soundtracks, including the one for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, released in 2000. Ma continues to actively record, and in 2022 he released a pair of albums covering Beethoven, as well as an album of pieces written by legendary film composer John Williams called *A Gathering of Friends*.



Receiving the  
Presidential  
Medal of Freedom

## Awards and honors

Over the course of his career, Yo-Yo Ma has received 29 Grammy Award nominations and won 19 times. The awards have recognized his recordings of classical music, such as that by Beethoven and Brahms, as well as his folk album titled *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*. He received a National Medal of Arts in 2001, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2010 by President Barack Obama, and was a Kennedy Center Honoree in 2011. In 2014, he received the Fred Rogers Legacy Award, which is named after the creator and host of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Ma called this award "perhaps the greatest honor I've ever received."

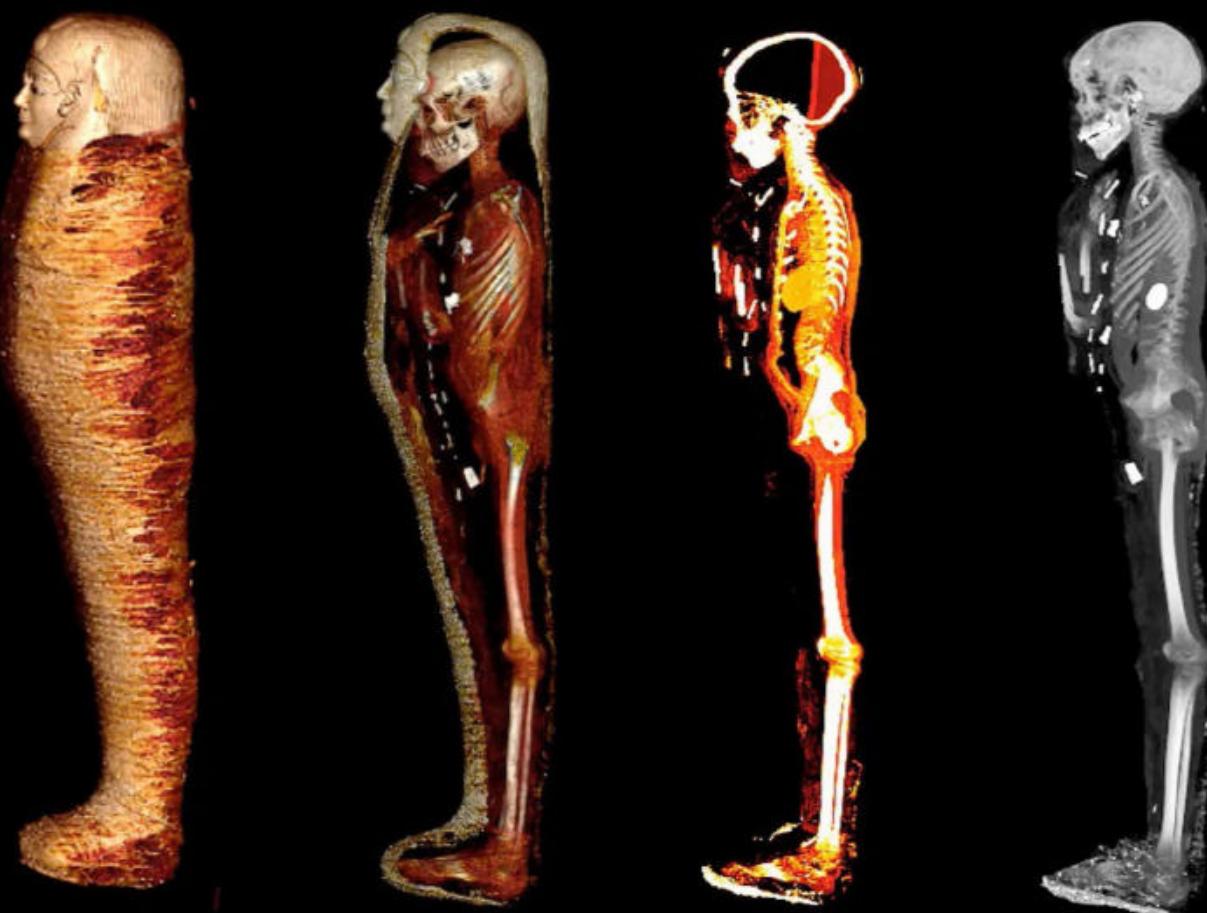


One of  
Ma's cellos



# Science and technology

**WOW!**  
In ancient Egypt,  
it took workers about  
70 days to turn a body  
into a mummy.



These 3D scans  
show four layers of  
the teen mummy.

## Treasure found in “Golden Boy” mummy

Scientists have found a way to digitally “unwrap” the 2,300-year-old mummy of an Egyptian teenager. Known as the “Golden Boy,” the mummy was buried in an inner and outer coffin. His body was adorned with 49 precious amulets (a small object believed to provide protection from evil), which offer insight into ancient Egyptian beliefs and ritual burial practices.

The Golden Boy was discovered in 1916 in southern Egypt, in a cemetery in Nag el-Hassay that was used from about 332 BCE to 30 BCE. It has been stored in the basement of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the capital city, and was never opened.

To “unwrap” the mummy, a team led by Sahar Saleem of Cairo University used technology called computerized tomography (CT). With CT scanning, they took hundreds of x-ray images of thin sections of the mummy and combined them to create 3D images. This let them see the layers of the mummy in great detail without causing any physical damage to it.

The boy’s outer coffin had Greek writing on it. Inside that was a wooden sarcophagus (coffin). He wore a head mask covered in a thin layer of gold and a pair of sandals, which were most likely put

on him in the belief that they would help him walk out of the coffin and into the afterlife.

Based on his bones and teeth, the team could tell that he was 4 feet 2 inches tall and between 14 and 15 years old. They could not determine a cause of death. The boy’s brain and other internal organs, except for the heart, had been removed, which was common during the mummification process.

The amulets were made of gold or precious stones and carefully arranged in three columns inside the mummy’s wrappings and body. They were meant to protect him in the afterlife. A golden scarab beetle amulet placed near his heart was inscribed with words from the Book of the Dead, an ancient Egyptian religious text. A golden tongue leaf was placed inside the boy’s mouth to help him speak in the afterlife. The presence of the valuables and the amount of care that went into preparing the body indicate that he came from a very wealthy family, Saleem said.

The museum plans to put the mummy on display in its main exhibition hall, along with images of the CT scans and a 3D-printed reproduction of the scarab beetle amulet.



The Egyptian  
Museum in Cairo

### Crocodile mummies discovered



The mummified animals

Ten mummified crocodiles were found at an ancient burial site on the west bank of the Nile River in Egypt. They are believed to have been put there more than 2,500 years ago. One of them was nearly complete and measured more than 7 feet long. Archaeologists said that finding this many crocodiles buried together is very rare and helps them learn more about burial practices in that era.

Ancient Egyptians believed that some animals, including crocodiles, symbolized gods on Earth. In addition to crocodiles, creatures such as cats, hawks, and snakes were also mummified. Animal mummies were often buried with humans, either as an offering to the gods or as beloved pets who would join their owners in the afterlife.



## US no longer requires testing on animals

A new law says that drug companies in the US are no longer required to test their products on animals. The move has drawn praise from animal welfare activists and some drug companies.

For more than 80 years, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA, the agency responsible for approving new medicines) has required drug companies to test a new drug on a rodent

species (such as a mouse or rat) and a non-rodent species (such as a monkey or rabbit). If a drug was found to be safe and effective in animals, it could then be tested on humans before it became available to the public.

Animal welfare activists have argued for many years that animal testing

unnecessarily injures or kills millions of animals. And many drug companies say animal testing is no longer necessary. New technology lets scientists test drugs using computer models or microchips that function like a human organ.

The new law does not ban animal testing. Instead, it lets drug companies decide whether to test on animals or not. The FDA can also require a company to do so.

Senators Rand Paul of Kentucky and Cory Booker of New Jersey pushed for the new law, which will "get safer, more effective drugs to market more quickly," Paul said. "This legislation brings us one step closer to eliminating the cruel practice of unnecessary animal testing," Booker said.

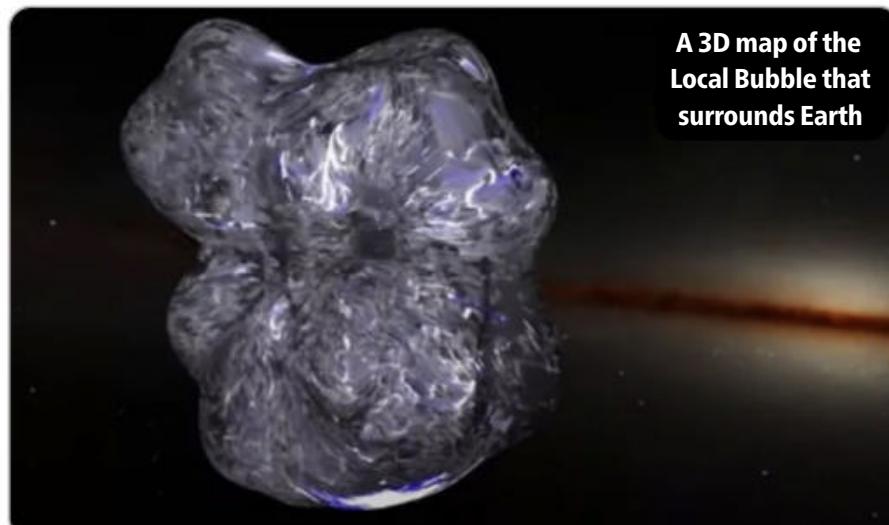


Mice in a lab



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Around the world,  
42 countries have banned  
or limited animal testing  
of cosmetics, such  
as makeup.

Drugs are tested on  
animals like rabbits.



A 3D map of the Local Bubble that surrounds Earth

### Earth surrounded by “superbubble”

Scientists have created a 3D map of a “superbubble” made up of gas and dust particles that surrounds Earth. Superbubbles are created when a system of stars explodes and dies, creating a hollow blob of particles. New stars form along the surface, while current stars, like the Sun, can drift inside it.

The superbubble surrounding Earth is known as the Local Bubble. It's one of many in the Milky Way, Earth's galaxy. To create the map,

astronomers (scientists who study the stars, planets, and space) at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics used images and data from space telescopes. This let them chart the superbubble's magnetic field (a group of moving particles that are electrically charged).

Scientists believe knowing more about superbubbles will provide insight into how the universe works, including the effects of magnetic fields in outer space.



### A Braille glove that reads out loud



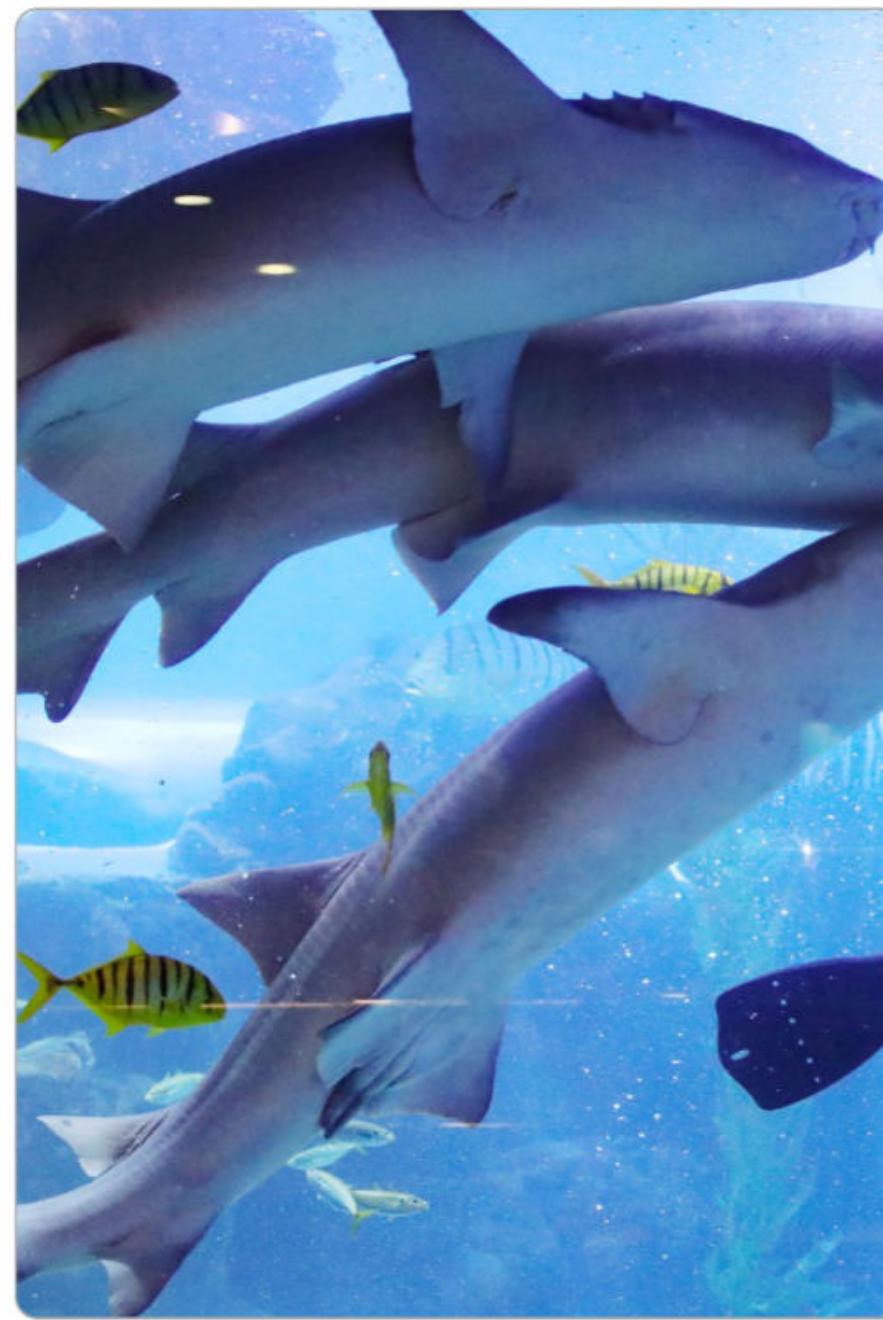
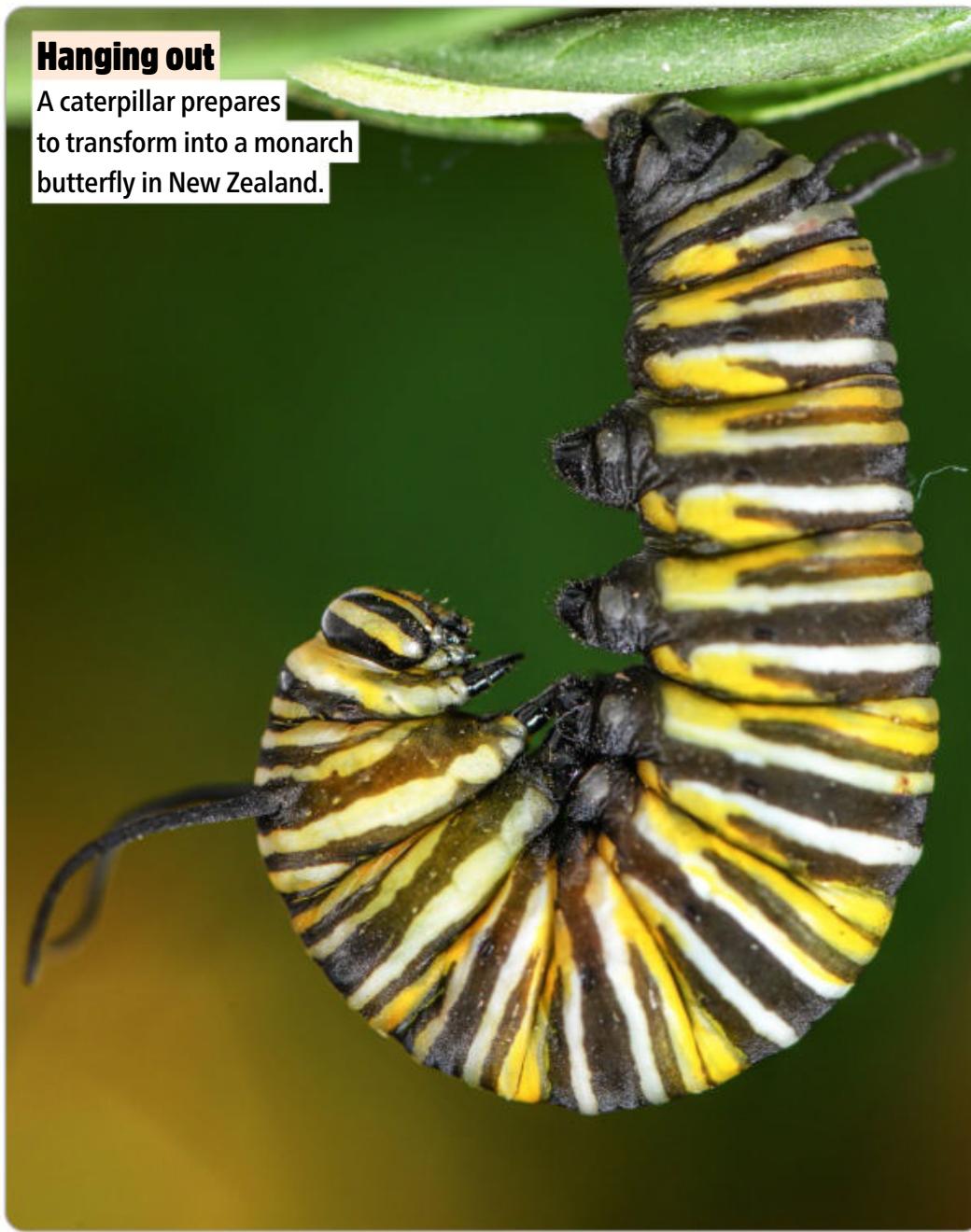
The BrailleWear glove

Scientists in the US have created a smart glove that translates Braille into speech for people with visual impairments. Braille is a system of raised dots that represent words and letters. A person reads by feeling the dots with their fingertips—but many

people who are visually impaired cannot read Braille. The glove, called BrailleWear, has a camera, light, and speaker. As the camera sees the dots, the glove says the words out loud. The designers hope users who hear the words as they touch the dots will be able to learn Braille.



# Photos of the week



# Photos of the week



## Amazing eyes

A husky at a sled dog rally in Scotland gets ready for a training session.



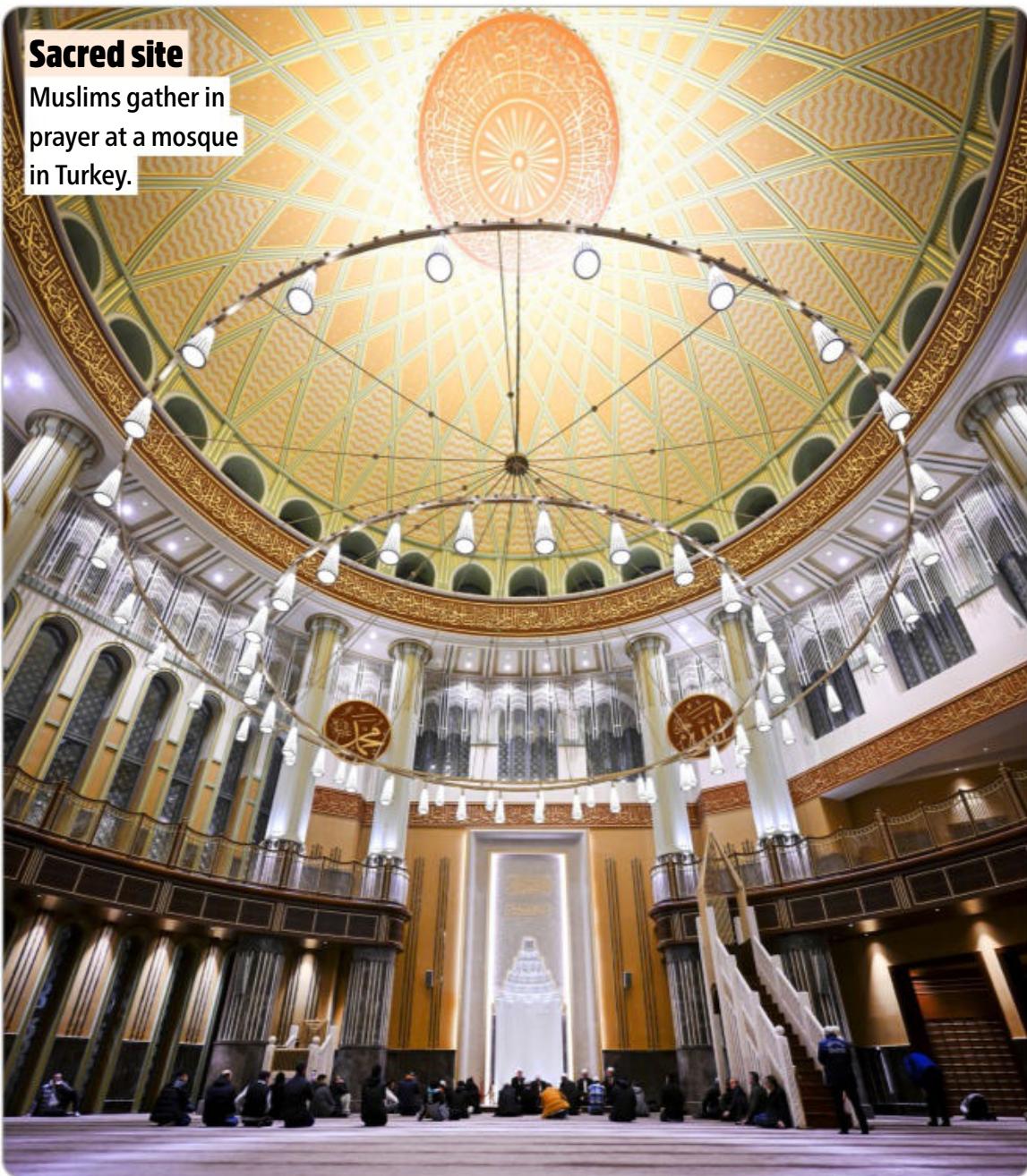
## Need a hand?

A dancer performs at a Lunar New Year celebration in Indonesia.



## Daring dive

A diver swims with sharks at Spring Festival in China.



## Sacred site

Muslims gather in prayer at a mosque in Turkey.



# Sports



## DID YOU KNOW?

The first basketball game between two college teams was played in 1895.

Alexis Morris of LSU, left, and McKinzie Green of Texas

## WNBA player news



Women's National Basketball Association stars are making moves. The Chicago Sky is losing Candace Parker to the Las Vegas Aces and Courtney Vandersloot (above) to the New York Liberty. Breanna Stewart, formerly of the Seattle Storm, will also join the Liberty.

# Exciting week in college basketball

With about one month left in the regular season of college basketball, games are becoming more important and more thrilling. Recently, there were several memorable matchups featuring top teams.

On the women's side, two teams remained undefeated when *The Week Junior* went to press: the University of South Carolina, who are the defending national champions and ranked number one, and Louisiana State University (LSU), who are ranked number three. On February 5, South Carolina played fifth-ranked University of Connecticut (UConn) in a rematch of last year's championship final. UConn led at the end of the first quarter, and the score was tied at halftime.



Purdue's Zach Edey, left, and Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis

The competition stayed tight in the second half, but South Carolina came away with an 81–77 win. Their forward Aliyah Boston scored 26 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter. She also had 11 rebounds.

The same day, LSU extended their unbeaten streak with a 72–66 win over unranked Texas A&M. Their next game is against South Carolina on February 12.

On the men's side, an 83-day winning streak was broken and the top two men's teams suffered losses.

On February 1, second-ranked University of Tennessee fell to unranked University of Florida, 67–54. The following day, 19th-ranked Florida Atlantic University, who had won 20 games in a

row, was defeated by the unranked University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), 86–77. On February 4, number-one-ranked Purdue lost to University of Indiana, ranked 21st, by a score of 79–74. It was Purdue's second loss of the season. In the game, Indiana forward Trayce Jackson-Davis scored 25 points, while Purdue center Zach Edey scored 33 points and grabbed 18 rebounds.

In another big game on February 4, number 10 University of Texas erased an 11-point halftime deficit to beat seventh-ranked Kansas State University, 69–66. That day was also the first time in-state rivals Duke University and the University of North Carolina met this season. Duke won, 63–57. The team's guard Jeremy Roach delivered 20 points while center Dereck Lively II had eight blocked shots and 14 rebounds.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

In a match on February 5, Tottenham Hotspur defeated Manchester City, 1–0, at home. Tottenham striker Harry Kane, who is also the captain of England's men's national team, scored the winning goal. It was the 267th of his career for Tottenham, making him the club's all-time leading scorer. It was also Kane's 200th Premier League goal. He is one of only three players to score 200 goals in the league.



Harry Kane

### COLLEGE GYMNASTICS

Olympian and Auburn University gymnast Suni Lee got two perfect 10s in a meet on February 3. One came on uneven bars and the other on beam.

### SKATEBOARDING

On February 5, two 12-year-olds received medals at the world skateboarding championships. Australia's Chloe Covell won silver in the women's street finals, while Japan's Onodera Ginwoo won bronze in the men's street finals.

# Sports



## FUN FACT

Tom Brady is the only NFL player who has won a Super Bowl in three different decades.



Tom Brady in his final game on January 16

## NFL star Tom Brady retires again

On February 1, Tom Brady, who is considered one of the best players in National Football League (NFL) history, announced that his 23-year career as a quarterback has come to an end. In a video he posted on social media, he told fans, "I'm retiring. For good." Brady also said he was retiring in February 2022, but he changed his mind 40 days later and played another season.

The former University of Michigan player, age 45, spent the majority of his NFL career with the New England Patriots. He helped them win six Super Bowls (the NFL championship game). He joined the Buccaneers before the 2020 season and spent three seasons with that team. In his first year there, they won the Super Bowl. No other quarterback has won seven championships, and no single NFL team has won

that many either. Brady leaves the sport with many other records and major accomplishments, including being the leader in career passing yards and passing touchdowns.

Some people have wondered whether Brady's decision to unretire last year was a smart choice. This season, the Buccaneers ended the regular season with eight wins and nine losses. It was the first time in Brady's career that his team had a losing record. Although they were able to win their division and reach the playoffs, the Buccaneers lost to the Dallas Cowboys in the first round.

In his announcement, Brady thanked all the people who supported him, including his family, friends, teammates, and competitors. "Thank you, guys, for allowing me to live my absolute dream," he said. "I wouldn't change a thing."



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Pasquale Maio**

Team: **The Bloody Sharks (soccer)**

**"Coach Pasquale is nice, motivational, and funny. From the start, he has pushed us to our limits and he has made us get better and better. We always have fun with activities, and he always makes the practices fun. The best part about him is that he always makes sure everyone is OK and that everyone has a good time and is enjoying themselves. Without him, we would not be the soccer players we are today!" Allegra, 13, New York**



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



### Logan Case

AGE: 21 SPORT: VOLLEYBALL

TEAM: WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**Early start** My mom has been a volleyball coach forever, and she played at the high school and collegiate level. I was always in the gym watching her practice until I became old enough to actually be able to hit the ball. I began playing club volleyball around age 8.

**Magical mix** I like how in every game something is different—someone performs differently, new players come in, the ball is unpredictable. That's fun.



**Winning way** The most successful teams I've been on have had great chemistry. When you have two evenly matched teams, the one that gets along better and pushes each other is going to come out on top.

**Court idols** I never really got into beach volleyball, but I always liked how US Olympian April Ross played. My mom's a huge role model, too. I wear her number, 12. Bonding over volleyball is a huge part of our lives.

**Happily imperfect** Volleyball is 60% mistakes. You can't let them hold you back.

**Mood booster** If I have an issue and need to rant, I love to talk things out with my teammates or my parents. I do it with my roommates as well. I get a sense of solidarity: "Oh, you're feeling this too. I'm glad I'm not the only one."

**Deep devotion** I have no idea what I'd do if I didn't play volleyball. I always knew that I was going to play for as long as I could. I'll always be involved in some way—coaching, playing recreationally. I don't feel like I'm done yet.



# Arts and entertainment



Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur

## DID YOU KNOW?

From 2015 to 2019, 47 issues of the Moon Girl comic books were published.

## Hit comic book becomes TV show

**Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur** features Marvel's first African American teen girl superhero and her T. rex partner.

**M**oon Girl and Devil Dinosaur is a new animated series based on Marvel's hit comic books of the same name. It follows Lunella Lafayette, also known as Moon Girl, Marvel's first African American teen girl superhero, as she learns the importance of family, community, and responsibility. The series premieres on the Disney Channel at 8 pm ET on February 10 and on Disney+ on February 15.

In the Marvel Universe, Lunella (voiced by Diamond White)



Diamond White

is the world's smartest person. She was 9 years old in the comic strip, but she's 13 in the TV series. When Lunella accidentally brings a red T. rex named Devil Dinosaur into the present day, she realizes they can team up to protect her New York City neighborhood. Devil Dinosaur was part of Marvel's *Moon-Boy* comic book series in the late 1970s.

The series has a 2D animation style that reflects its comic book roots. Executive producer Steve Loter and supervising producer Rodney Clouden told *The Week Junior* that video

footage of New York City from the mid-1980s and early 1990s also inspired the show's vibrant look.

The program is a comedy but also addresses important issues such as gentrification (wealthy people moving into poor neighborhoods) and hair love. Lunella also learns many life lessons. "Even though she's one of the smartest people, intelligence doesn't equal wisdom all the time," Loter said. Clouden added that the series shows that one girl can make a difference. "If each person takes that lesson and does something with it," he said, "they can make a big change in their community or the world."

### 3 facts about the series

#### The music

The show's music was overseen by award-winning musician and producer Raphael Saadiq. It features elements of pop, R&B, and jazz to reflect the many cultures of New York City.



Raphael Saadiq

#### Artistic inspiration

The creative team was influenced by famous artists from the New York City art scene, such as Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. They also looked at graffiti that made the city gritty but colorful.



Art by Keith Haring



Graffiti

#### The setting

The Lower East Side of Manhattan is rich in history. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, immigrants arriving from Europe and Asia built communities there. Later, they were joined by artists, musicians, and trendsetters.

# Arts and entertainment



## ANIMAL KINGDOM

More than 60% of wild Asian elephants live in India.



## Film about elephant and human bond

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently announced the nominations for the 2023 Oscars (top film award). Among the nominees in the best documentary short category is *The Elephant Whisperers*. The 40-minute film, on Netflix, focuses on a couple in India who care for orphaned elephants. The film is in Tamil (a language spoken in India) with English subtitles but can also be watched with English dubbing.

*The Elephant Whisperers* was filmed within the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in southern India. It was directed by Kartiki Gonsalves, who grew up in the area. The main elephant in the film is Raghu, whose mother was killed when he was a calf. Raghu was placed in the care of a local couple, Bomman and Bellie, who live in an area for rescued elephants. Gonsalves told the *Hindustan Times* the film "portrays the dignity of both the magnificent elephants and the Indigenous [native] people who have lived with them and cared for them for centuries."

Gonsalves met Raghu when he was three months old. "He was so young and extremely vulnerable at that point," she told Deadline. She spent about a year and a half getting to know him and Bomman and Bellie before making the film. "I've seen wild elephant calves, but never one I could get this close to or observe on such a deep level," she told the *Hindustan Times*.

The film shows Bomman and Bellie's close bond with Raghu and how they treat him like their child. "He felt like he was with a mother, he had a father," Gonsalves told Deadline. She also captured what happened when the couple took in another orphaned elephant calf, and how their relationship with Raghu had to change as he got older.

In India, elephants are often killed because humans think they are harmful, so Gonsalves hopes the film will help people understand them better. Her goal for audiences, she told the *Hindustan Times*, is "to stop seeing animals as the other and start seeing them as one of us."



### READER RECOMMENDS

#### **The Apple Dumpling Gang** Disney+ or rent on demand

"This film is about three orphans who are unexpectedly taken in by bachelor Russell Donovan. After the kids discover a huge gold nugget in a mine, a pair of outlaws make a failed attempt to steal it. The gold is worth a lot of money, so people in town fight over who should be made the children's guardians. The kids, who want to stay with Mr. Donovan, turn to the outlaws for help. It is a really funny movie with lots of hilarious mix-ups, facial expressions, stunts, and plot twists that keep you laughing the whole time. It makes you want to watch it over and over again." Mabel, 13, Minnesota

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



### THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



#### A Charlie Brown Valentine

**(Apple TV+)**

In this animated special featuring the Peanuts characters, Valentine's Day is keeping everyone busy. Charlie Brown is trying to impress a girl, Snoopy is writing poems about the holiday, Lucy and Sally are waiting to get special cards, and Peppermint Patty seeks a date to the dance.



#### Puppy Bowl XIX

**(HBO Max) (TBS) (Animal Planet)**

**(Discovery Channel) (discovery+)**

**February 12 @ 2 pm ET**

This annual event raises awareness for rescue dogs and pet adoption. It will feature a game between two teams, Ruff and Fluff, made up of 122 puppies from 67 shelters across the country.



#### Next Level Chef

**(Fox)**

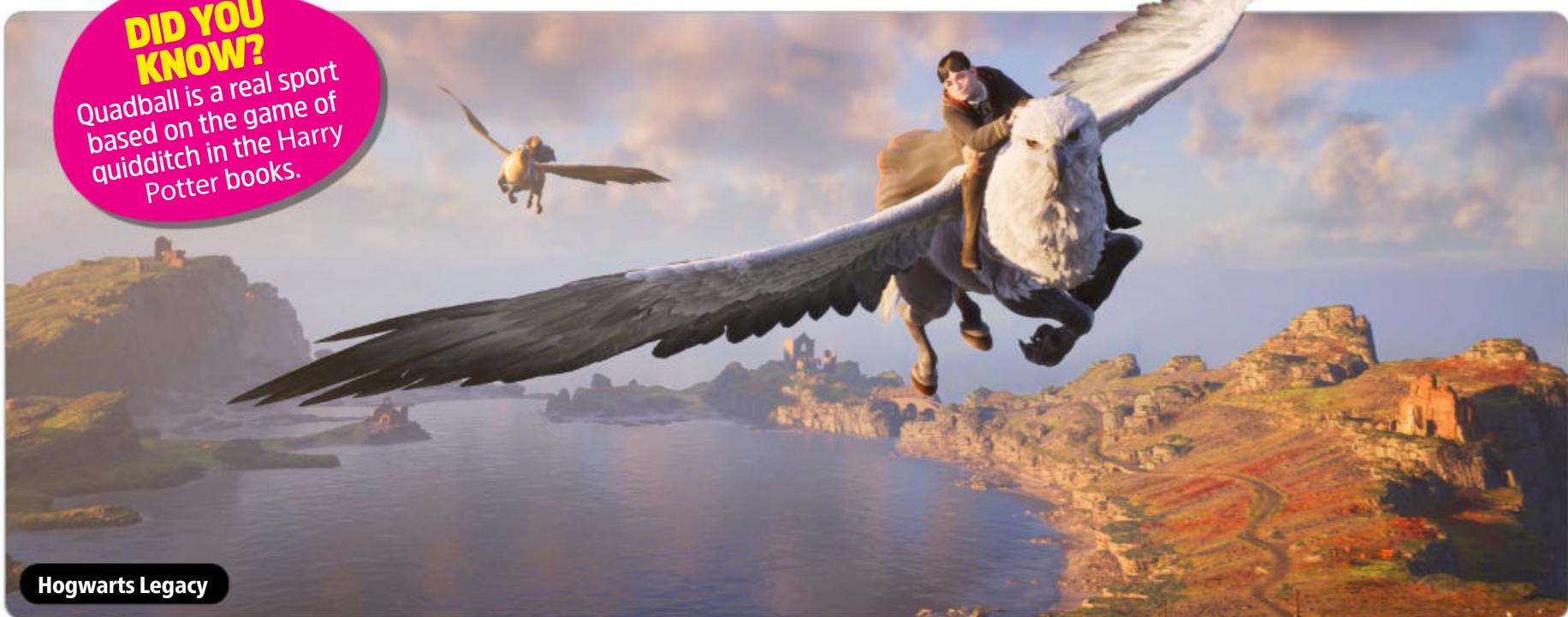
Season two of this cooking competition, hosted by chef Gordon Ramsay, kicks off after the Super Bowl on February 12. It has a set with three levels of kitchens. If chefs can't impress the judges, they risk being moved to the lower levels, which have the worst food and features.



## On screen

### DID YOU KNOW?

Quadball is a real sport based on the game of quidditch in the Harry Potter books.



Hogwarts Legacy

# New game for Harry Potter fans

**H**ogwarts Legacy is a new role-playing adventure game. It was just released for the PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC. It will be released for the Nintendo Switch in July. The game is rated Teen.

The action in the game takes place in the Wizarding World from the Harry Potter franchise, but the story is separate from the books and films and has all new characters. It is set in the 1800s, and you play the game as a fifth-year student who just transferred to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Your character will take part in a traditional wand ceremony and sorting ceremony and join one of the school's four houses: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw, or Hufflepuff. (Players who have an account on the official Wizarding World website can link to the game so their student has the same house and wand.)

As your student explores the school's ancient castle, they will discover hidden mysteries and delights along with puzzles and challenges scattered throughout the grounds. The challenges include caring for creatures and going on outings to famous places such as Diagon Alley and the Forbidden Forest. Making friends will be key, so relationship quests are important.

As Potterheads may expect, the new student isn't a regular wizard or witch. They hold secrets to the Ancient Magic, which they must develop in order to stop a rebellion led by the goblin Ranrok. Hogwarts Legacy has intense battles with a combat style not seen in previous Harry Potter games. As the battles get harder, you will discover powerful spells that turn wands into serious weapons. Fighting enemies is a big responsibility, but with practice you can figure out the tricks to winning.



### VIDEO OF THE WEEK

#### HOW TO PAINT FLOWERS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PaintFlowers](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PaintFlowers)

This video was created by Tate, a group of art institutions in England. It features artist Glory Samjolly explaining how to paint flowers like the pre-Raphaelites, artists in the 19th century who were known for their use of deep colors and fine details. She includes many helpful tips.



HOW TO PAINT FLOWERS LIKE A PRE-RAPHAELITE



### APP OF THE WEEK



#### STAR WALK 2

Apple App Store, Google Play

This app helps you understand what you see in the night sky. Point a phone upward and it will tell you which stars, satellites, and constellations (groups of stars) you are looking at. It also has fact files on planets and comets, news on astronomy events, and more.



### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

#### ROLAND50 STUDIO

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Roland](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Roland)

The instrument brand Roland created this site in honor of its 50th anniversary. It lets you play virtual versions of drum machines and synthesizers (electronic musical instruments). Experiment on the sound boards to create your own patterns that make up rhythmic basslines and melodies.



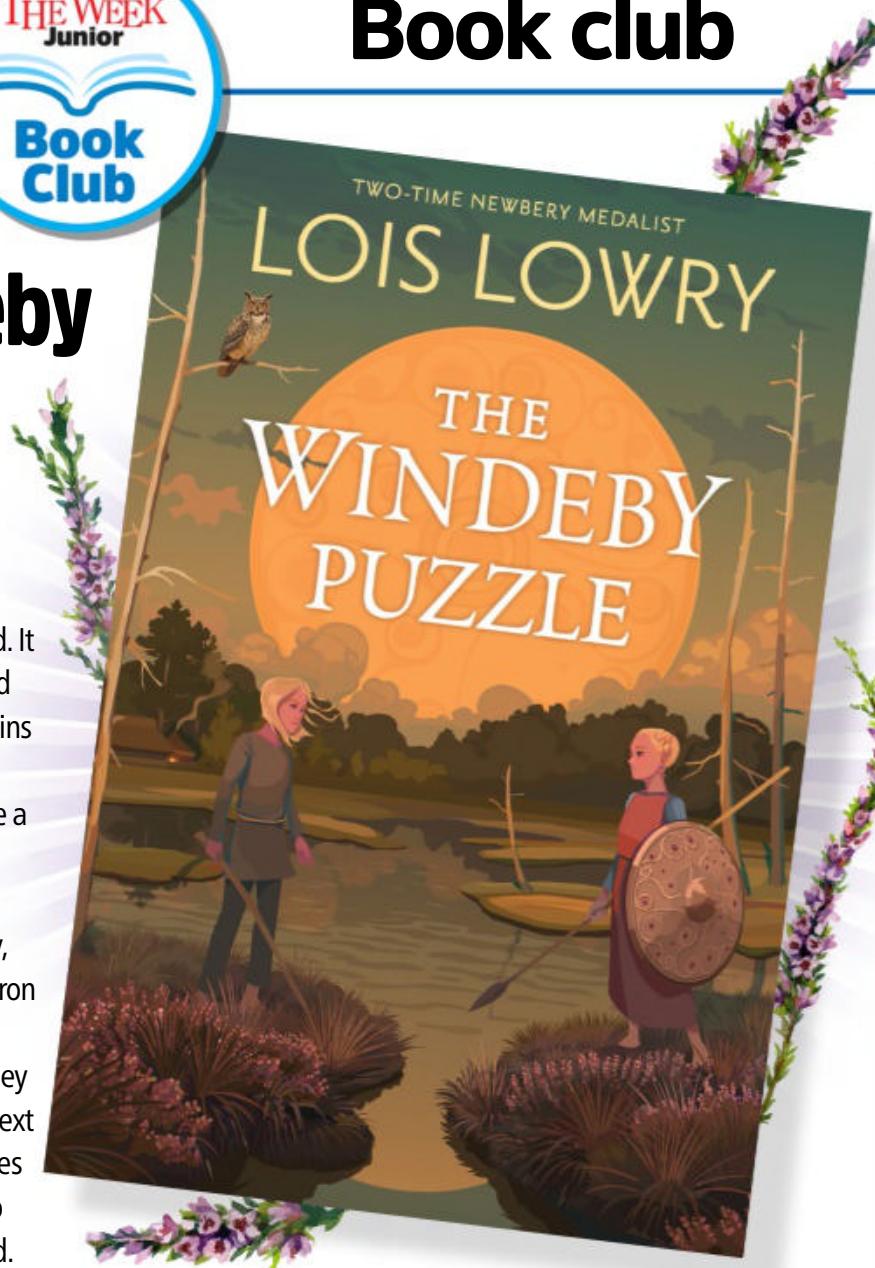
**OUR FEBRUARY  
BOOK CLUB PICK**

## The Windeby Puzzle

By Lois Lowry, illustrations by Jonathan Stroh

(Clarion Books)

The format of this book may be unlike anything you've ever read. It contains two fictional stories and three nonfiction chapters. It begins with the true story of German workers who found bones inside a peat bog (a type of wetlands) in 1952. Scientists determined the bones were from the 1st century, during a time period called the Iron Age. They believed these bones belonged to a small teenager they called the Windeby Girl. In the next chapter, author Lois Lowry creates a story about what happened to the girl, whom she names Estrild. Wanting to be a warrior even though it would have been forbidden, Estrild strives to break out of the expected female role. In doing so, she seals her fate. The next nonfiction chapter explains that 20th-century technology has revealed a surprising twist about the Windeby Girl. Based on that discovery, Lowry writes a second fictional story from a new point of view. The book's blend of fact and fantasy may give you a fresh perspective on history. Ages 10+



### WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *The Windeby Puzzle*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to [contests@theweekjunior.com](mailto:contests@theweekjunior.com) with Windeby in the subject line. Enter by midnight on March 3. See [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms) for complete rules.

## Book club



### Ask the author



*The Week Junior* spoke to Lois Lowry, author of *The Windeby Puzzle*. She has written more than 50 books for children and young adults. Her books *Number the Stars* and *The Giver* are Newbery Medal winners.

### How did you find out about the Windeby Girl?

Early in the pandemic, I spent a lot of time reading. That's when I ran across a reference to the Windeby Girl. My library was closed, so I did more research online and became fascinated.



### Are any of your other books similar to *The Windeby Puzzle*?

The closest is *Number the Stars*. It is set against real historical events that took place in Denmark in 1943, and I created a fictional family who participated in those events.

### What's your favorite kind of puzzle?

I like to do the *New York Times* crossword puzzle every day.



### Do you also play Wordle?

Yes! I start with a word with a couple of vowels, like youth.

### What's a fun fact about yourself?

Before I started writing books, I was a contestant on *Jeopardy!* The category in Final Jeopardy was sports. I didn't get the answer right, but my kids knew it!

### What do you like most about living in Maine?

My house was built in 1768. I like to imagine who lived there 100 or 200 years ago.

### What do you wish you could do?

I'd love to be able to speak more languages.

### Best advice you've received?

Somebody once told me that when you're writing fiction, you should approach it as if you're telling something to your best friend.



### JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Lois Lowry created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at [kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub).

**WOW!**

There are more than 88,000 pre-K, elementary, and middle schools in the US.

## How to...



# Make a difference at school

**Simple steps can help you get involved and have fun working with others.**

Besides being a great place to learn, school offers a great opportunity to make friends, try new things, and give back to others. At this point in the school year, there is plenty of time for you to take advantage of opportunities and activities that your school offers. It's also a good time to think of ways to make a difference and improve your school. Here's how to get started.

### Reach out

One option for learning more about what happens around your school is to be involved in activities, clubs, and teams. All of these help you to meet more people, including teachers and staff, who can give you an idea of needs your school might have. For example, get to know your student council or government. Ask if you can attend meetings to share ideas and listen to what others want to change at school. (Maybe you'll even be inspired to run for a position in your school's next election!) If your school has a student newspaper, check it out or consider joining the staff to know more about what is happening at school.

### Start something new

Your school may have a variety clubs—from robotics to anime to chess. If you and some of your classmates have an interest that's not covered by a current school club, you could consider forming your own. Many

schools have a standard process for approving clubs, which may include asking a teacher to advise the club, filling out paperwork with an adult's help, and finding a place and time to meet.

### Identify a need and take action

Think about what makes you feel happy at school. For instance, maybe you enjoy having lunch, playing soccer at recess, or taking an art class. Now think about ways those activities could be even better. You might wish there were more fresh food options in the cafeteria. Perhaps your school could use more soccer balls for students to use at recess or you would like to see more artwork on display. Once you have your idea, talk to an adult on staff to see if students could help. You could offer to organize a bake sale to buy sports equipment, develop a plan for a school garden that can contribute to meals, or launch a group project to paint a hallway mural.

### Be kind

It may seem simple, but you can help create a positive atmosphere at school by being kind and respectful to others. This includes respecting a teacher's rules, saying thank you when a student helps you, cleaning up any mess you make, and saying hello to others in the hallway. A good attitude is contagious!



Try painting a hallway mural.

## 4 organizations that value learning

These groups ensure that teachers and students have the resources they need.

### DonorsChoose

On this group's website, teachers can upload lists of classroom supplies they need. Donors can then help cover costs by contributing money so teachers can buy the supplies. [donorschoose.org](https://donorschoose.org)



### Kids in Need Foundation



This group offers free resource centers that educators can visit to get needed classroom supplies. Teachers can also get help with lesson plans for their classrooms. [kinf.org](https://kinf.org)

### Operation Backpack



People who volunteer with this organization collect and distribute backpacks filled with essential school supplies to thousands of students in need every year. [voa.org/operation-backpack](https://voa.org/operation-backpack)

### Teach for America



Many schools don't have enough teachers. This group trains college graduates so they can become teachers where the need is greatest. [teachforamerica.org](https://teachforamerica.org)

# What's great about your school?

Name:

Age:

Grade:

What's a fun event or activity at your school? What makes it special?

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What do you think makes your school stand out?

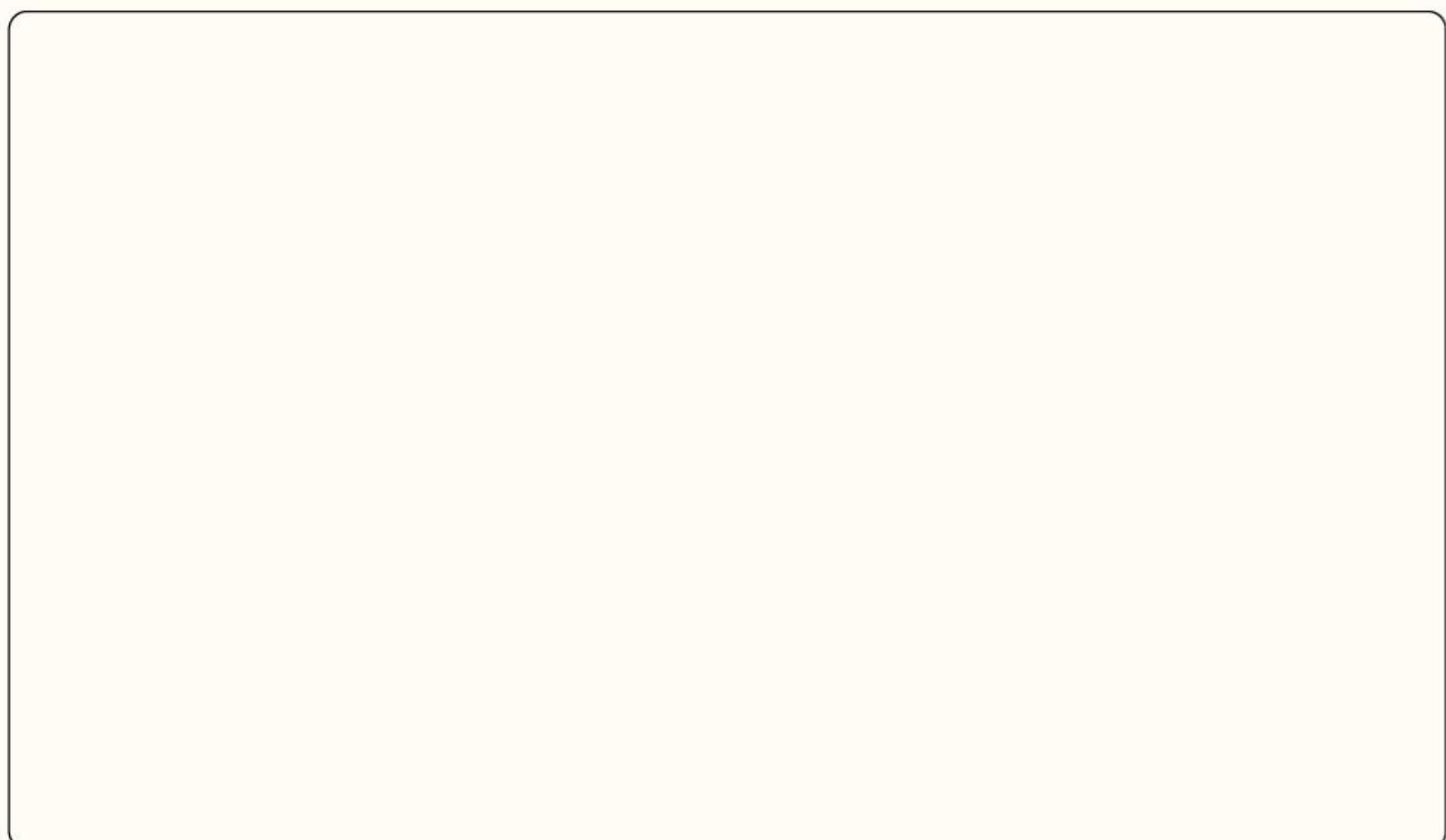
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Draw a picture of one of your favorite school memories from this year.





# Puzzles



## Crisscross

**4 letters**

HULA  
SWIM

**5 letters**

CONGA  
MAMBO  
POLKA  
RUMBA

**6 letters**

CHA-CHA  
NAE NAE  
SHIMMY  
WATUSI

**10 letters**

TARANTELLA

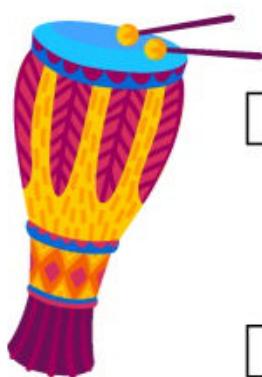
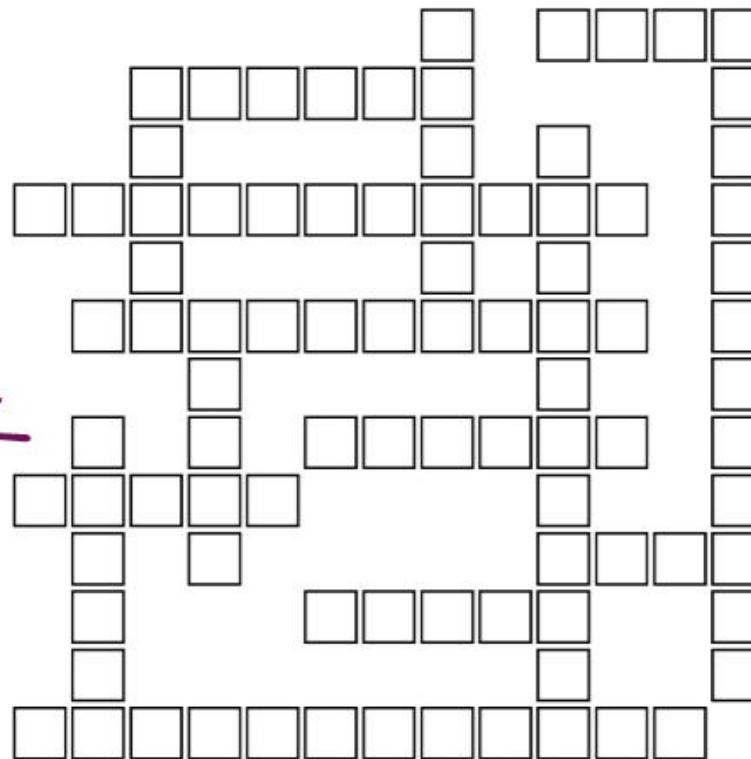
**11 letters**

CONTINENTAL  
HARLEM SHAKE

**12 letters**

MASHED POTATO  
VIRGINIA REEL

Each of these dances fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?



## ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters T-H-E. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Beautiful parts of peacocks

**T H E**

2. Place to see a show or a movie

**T H E**

3. "The Star-Spangled Banner," for example

**T H E**

4. Inhale and exhale

**T H E**

5. Punctuation marks that come in pairs (like this)

**T H E**

ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

2				6	
				1	2
				1	5
				6	4
3				2	
4					5

## Spot the difference

These two pictures of a turtle appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



# That's unbelievable!



Mark Verge  
and one of  
his creations

## Sculptor builds big with balloons

An artist from Canada has taken balloon sculpting to a whole new level. Mark Verge is an eight-time world champion balloon artist whose designs include a life-size version of the car from *The Flintstones* animated TV series and a 39-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex, which was made from 1,400 balloons. He has also built a larger-than-life model of a Minion wearing its trademark blue overalls and holding a rocket launcher, all made out of balloons.

## Real or fake?



Did the fish  
make an  
unauthorized  
purchase?

## Fish commit credit fraud

"Fish are smarter than we are," said Mutekimaru, a gamer who reportedly lives in Japan. Here's how he knows: Hoping to see if his three pet fish could play a video game, Mutekimaru set up motion-tracking software that pressed buttons on a Nintendo Switch controller as the fish swam around. But the game crashed, and Nintendo's eShop popped up. The fish added 500 yen (about \$4) from the credit card on his account and purchased a new avatar before he could regain control. Is this story real, or is it just bait?\*

## A lucky pair of socks

Connor McDavid, captain of the National Hockey League's Edmonton Oilers, recently revealed that he has worn the same pair of socks during every game of his eight-year career. McDavid's toes now stick out through large holes, but he loves the grip he gets from this particular pair and insists that they bring him good luck. In January, the company that makes the socks sent him some new pairs. There's been no word yet on whether he has worn them.



Good luck  
comes in pairs.

## Delivering a time-out

On January 25, a college basketball game was interrupted when a man walked onto the court with a food delivery. He seemed to be searching for the person who had ordered the meal. The man nearly ran into one of the players before a referee stopped the game. The teams laughed it off, and university officials later concluded that the incident was a prank.



Who  
ordered  
takeout?



Dishing up  
a record

## The largest pizza in the world

Pizza Hut serves up personal pizzas, but now the company has made a pizza big enough to feed a city. The mega-pie, created with help from the YouTuber Airrack, included almost 14,000 pounds of dough, 8,000 pounds of cheese, and more than 630,000 pepperonis. It stretched nearly 14,000 square feet across the Los Angeles Convention Center in California, earning the Guinness World Records title of the world's largest pizza. Its 68,000 slices were donated to local charities.

Mutekimaru laughed about the situation and said on social media that he wanted his followers to share the story of his fish's shopping spree. \*Really! Mutekimaru contacted Nintendo, which refunded the money.



# Your turn

## Editor's note

As *The Week Junior* was preparing to go to press, a powerful earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, causing widespread damage and killing thousands of people. We report on this in our Around the World section (p7) and will publish a more detailed story about the rescue and recovery efforts next week. In the meantime, many nonprofit organizations are providing assistance in the region and asking for help. If this is something you would like to participate in, talk to an adult about what your family could do, such as making a donation or hosting a bake sale or other event to raise money. If you do take action, please tell us about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). We also invite you to fill out and submit the new form we've published in our How To section about what makes your school great (p25). We always love hearing from you!



**Andrea Barbalich**  
Editor-in-Chief

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



### Random Acts of Kindness

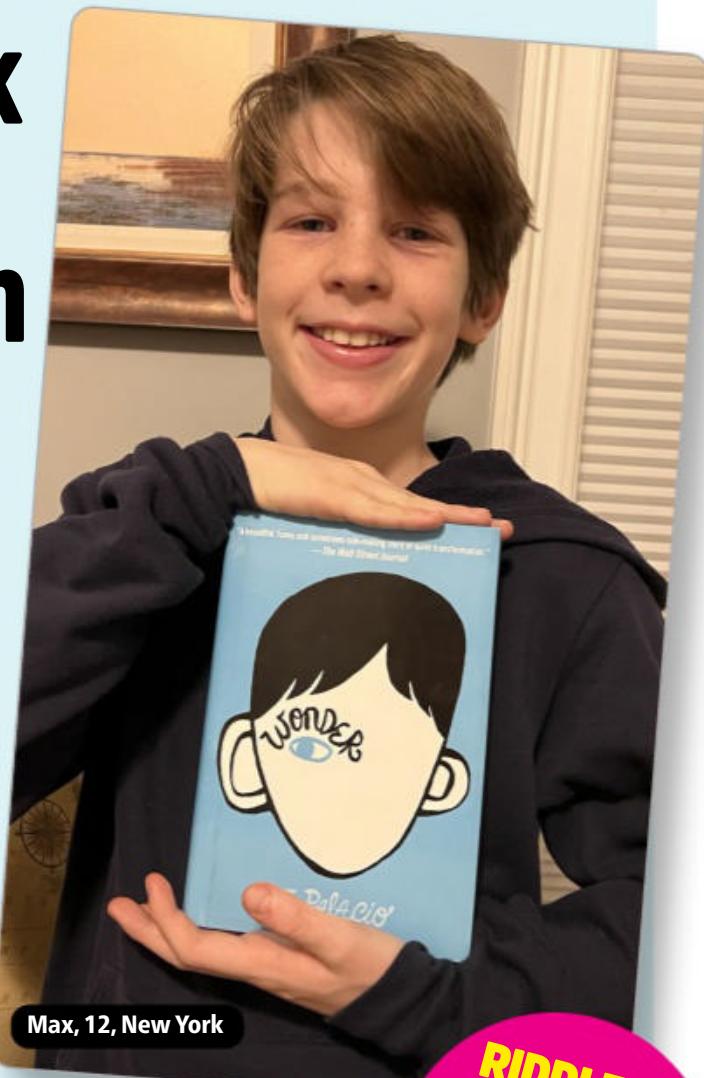
This organization works to inspire people to perform simple acts of kindness. It provides many ideas for being kind, such as being a good listener. On Random Acts of Kindness Day, February 17, the group is organizing a kindness event. People are encouraged to sign up to become a RAKtivist—a random acts of kindness activist—and do a kind act that day.

Find out more at [randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org).

RANDOM ACTS  
OF  
KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION

## Using a book to inspire conversation

“I am working on a project called “The Wonder Project.” It is inspired by the book *Wonder*, which was written by R.J. Palacio in 2012. The idea for this project came from something that happened to me this year in school. I got into a fight with one of my best friends. We made up and are friends again, but I thought it would be a good idea to find a way for kids to talk about the way we treat one another. I think the book *Wonder* is a good way of learning about making good choices, even when things are hard and people are different. I wrote some study questions and summaries of chapters that I think would help kids talk about character and good choices if they read the book together.”



Max, 12, New York

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



## READER RECOMMENDS

### What makes you smile and laugh?

What book, TV series, or podcast makes you laugh the most? Do you have a favorite joke to share? Is there a cartoon (or something else) you find especially funny? For a chance to be included in our upcoming Humor Issue (Issue 153), send us what you think is funny and why, along with your first name, age, and the state you live in. Have an adult email what you write, along with your photo, to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**  
When do you fall without moving at all?  
When you fall asleep

**THE WEEK**  
Junior

# IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

# Your turn

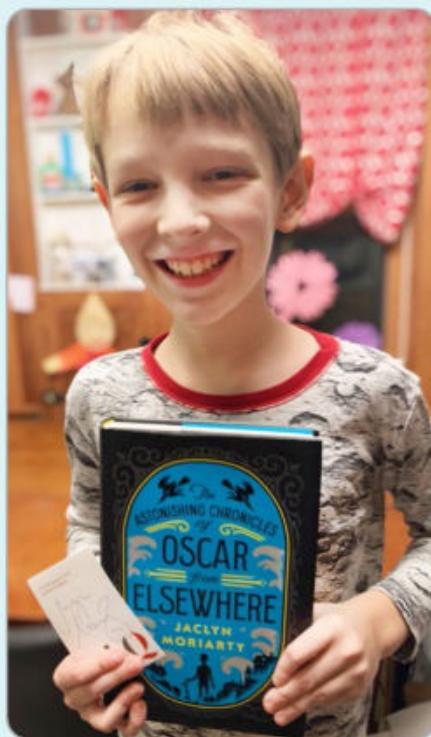


## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"I was so surprised to win the book! I can't wait to read it! Thank you so much!" Oscar, 9, Wisconsin



"I love *The Week Junior!* I always curl up in my bed at night to read it. I learn so much about things around the world!" Miyou, 11, California



"I had fun making the cherry blossoms! They're a nice decoration for our house!" Scarlett, 8, Pennsylvania

## POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: Who is your favorite author?

"My favorite author is Shannon Messenger. She wrote *Keeper of the Lost Cities*."

"Rick Riordan, he writes about different cultures and mythology."

"Coco Simon. She wrote the *Sprinkle Sundays* series."

"Lemony Snicket because of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*."

In the big debate, we asked: Should screen time be restricted?

"Yes. It gives kids some time to use their imagination."

"No. Technology is part of today's life and kids need to learn self-control."

"I think families should agree on a limit for each day."

"It depends on the person, but screen time can be bad if used too much."

Now tell us: What famous person from history would you like to meet and why?



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Scribner**

School: **Bernice A. Ray School**

**"Mr. Scribner is one of the funniest people you will meet. He will make your fourth grade year so fun that you will want to stay forever. He is so good at explaining everything we need to learn, including math, science, and social studies. He has definitely made my fourth grade year one of the best."**

Louisa, 9, New Hampshire

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**  
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

### Take five

joust  
sword  
tunic  
lance  
armor

### All the same

1. feathers
2. theater
3. anthem
4. breathe
5. parentheses

2	1	4	5	6	3
6	3	5	1	4	2
4	2	1	3	5	6
5	6	3	4	2	1
3	5	2	6	1	4
1	4	6	2	3	5

N	S	W	I	M
C	H	A	C	A
O	A	E	H	S
CONTINENTAL	G	A	R	E
T	T	A	D	P
R	U	E	E	O
A	W	M	SHIMMY	T
N	M	A	S	T
U	M	B	H	H
T	A	O	U	A
R	U	P	L	T
E	S	OLKA	K	O
VIRGINIA	I	A	R	EEL



## Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1a) 5 2 True 3c) Harry Kane 4 Talking 5a) Beyoncé 6 Eco-Hero
- 7b) Tongue leaf 8 False. They prefer to be alone or pair up with one other male.
- 9 Seven 10c) India 11c) Goblins 12 True 13 Moon Girl 14b) Alaska
- 15 False. He predicted six more weeks of winter weather.

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** How old was renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma when he gave his first public recital?

- a) 5 b) 7 c) 9

a  b  c

**2** True or false? The book *The Wind in the Willows* combines fiction and nonfiction.

True  False

**3** Which soccer player became the all-time leading scorer for Tottenham Hotspur?

- a) Jamie Vardy b) Raheem Sterling

c) Harry Kane

a  b  c

**4** Scientists found that South American river turtles were doing what in their eggs before they hatched?



**5** Who broke the record for most Grammy Awards ever won by an artist?

- a) Beyoncé b) Samara Joy c) Lizzo

a  b  c

**6** What is the edible water bottle invented by 12-year-old Madison Checketts called?



**7** Which golden item was placed in the mouth of the "Golden Boy" mummy to help him speak in the afterlife?

- a) Stone eye b) Tongue leaf c) Scarab beetle

a  b  c

**8** True or false? Adult male jaguars usually live together in large groups.

True  False



**9** How many Super Bowls did NFL quarterback Tom Brady win in his 23-year career?

**10** The documentary short *The Elephant Whisperers* is about two people caring for elephants in which country?

- a) China b) Thailand c) India

a  b  c

**11** In the video game *Hogwarts Legacy*, players stop a rebellion by what creatures?

- a) Dementors

b) Giants

c) Goblins

a  b  c

**12** True or false? Earth is surrounded by a "superbubble" of gas and dust particles.

True  False

**13** What is the name of Marvel's first African American teen girl superhero?

**14** In what US state is Tongass National Forest, where logging and building roads were recently banned?

- a) Arkansas

b) Alaska

c) Alabama

a  b  c

**15** True or false? The groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil predicted the arrival of early spring weather this year.

True  False

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